

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 251614Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3575

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, LY

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN DISPUTE

1. CAIRO PRESS APRIL 25 REPORTS THAT DURING PRESIDENT SADAT'S RECENT VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA, IT WAS "REVEALED" THAT SAUDI ARABIA "WELCOMES EVERY EGYPTIAN WORKING IN LIBYA...AND IS READY TO ABSORB ALL EGYPTIAN MANPOWER NOW WORKING IN LIBYA WHO WISH TO LEAVE". SADAT "IN HIS CONCERN" HAS REPORTEDLY APPROVED EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORIZATIONS FOR EGYPTIAN ALREADY WORKING IN SAUDI ARABIA.

2. IN OTHER STORIES, ASU SECRETARIES COUNCIL "CONDEMNED LIBYAN AUTHORITIES' ACTION AGAINST EGYPTIAN WORKERS IN LIBYA", BUT AFFIRMED THAT "TORTURE, MURDER AND MASSIVE DEPORTATION WOULD NEVER AFFECT BROTHERLY RELATIONS BINDING THE TWO PEOPLES". AT SAME TIME MIN MANPOWER BULTIYYA MET APRIL 24 WITH SYG OF ARAB FEDERATION OF BUILDING WORKERS TO DISCUSS TREATMENT OF EGYPTIAN WORKERS IN LIBYA.

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3. AHAM FRONTPAGES STORY APRIL 25 THAT ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR EGYPTIAN STUDENTS ENROLLED AT LIBYAN TEACHERS' COLLEGES, WHO HAVE LEFT LIBYA, TO TAKE THEIR EXAMS AT AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY TEACHERS' COLLEGE THIS YEAR. IN INSIDE PAGES AHAM REPORTS THAT 53 MATRUH TRIBES IN MASS RALLY OF OVER 2500 WESTERN DESERT RESIDENTS, CONDEMNED "LIBYA'S DESIGNS AND ITS CAMPAIGNS".

5. IN STILL ANOTHER STORY IN ALL THREE ARABIC PAPERS APRIL 25, IT HAS BEEN REVEALED BY PROSECUTOR IN CHARGE OF INVESTIGATING DEPORTATION INCIDENTS THAT EGYPTIAN WORKERS WERE OFFERED LIBYAN IDENTITY CARDS AND "THOUSANDS OF POUNDS" IF THEY WOULD SEND CABLES TO LIBYAN RADIO SUPPORTING ITS CAMPAIGNS AGAINST EGYPT.

6. MUSA SABRI IN HIS AHAM COLUMN APRIL 25 WRITES THAT QADHAAFI IS "SERIOUSLY SICK MAN" AND SHOULD EITHER BE TREATED FOR HIS ILLNESS OR STEP DOWN. IHSAN ABD AL-QUDDUS IN SEPARATE AHAM COLUMN CALLS FOR END TO EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN DISPUTE AS WELL AS END TO OTHER ARAB WORLD DISPUTES "FOMENTED BY LEADERSHIP AMBITIONS RATHER THAN POPULAR CONSIDERATIONS".

7. COMMENT: EGYPTIAN PRESS CONTINUES CONCENTRATE ON LIBYAN PROBLEM, MAINTAINING THEME THAT QADHAAFI IS SICK AND DANGEROUS MAN, BUT THAT LIBYAN BRETHREN NOT TO BLAME FOR THEIR LEADER'S ACTS. INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MEMBER ABU WAFIA WITHDREW FROM EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION WHICH LEFT FOR US APRIL 25 WITHIN 24 HOURS OF DEPARTURE TIME. ABU WAFIA, VOCAL LEADER OFFAWLAD ALI TRIBE AND OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIBYA, GAVE BOTH FAILING HEALTH AND PERSONAL SECURITY PROBLEMS AS REASONS FOR CANCELLING US TRIP. HE MAY ALSO HAVE DECIDED REMAIN IN EGYPT TO KEEP EYE ON WESTERN DESERT TRIBES AND TO KEEP UP ANTI-QADHAAFI CAMPAIGN.
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